

The problematic of economic terminology and its impact on translation

إشكالية المصطلح الاقتصادي وأثرها على الترجمة

LAMARA MAHAMMED Fatima^{1*}

f_lamara@yahoo.com

¹ University of Oran 2, (Algeria)

² University of Tlemcen, (Algeria)

BEN KHENAFU Rachid²

rachid-13000@live.com

Received: 28/04/2021

Accepted: 05/08/2021

Published : 31/12/2021

Abstract:

The modern linguistic studies confirm that keeping pace with modern linguistic norms requires careful usage of terminology in order to be properly employed through which the translation process is promoted and the problem of translating the specialized terminology in general and particularly economic terms are among the problematic encountered in transferring knowledge from foreign languages to the Arabic language. Despite the efforts of the Federation of Arab Universities to unify terminology; and the efforts of translators and linguists, the problem still persists due to the term source difference and its confusion during translation and to the multiplicity of the Arabic terms equivalent to the one in foreign language and also to the multiplicity of the interpreters' backgrounds.

The purpose of this study is to analyze these problems in order to propose solutions for the unification of the term in Arab culture, refuting the reasons for the unification of the Arabic terminology, because the terms are the keys to science, so if there are multiple terms equivalent to a single one, this leads to a disturbance in understanding and reflects negatively on the assimilation of knowledge, and contributes to the confusion of the entire translation process.

Keywords: Terminology; economic terminology ; specialized language ; economic language ; specialized translation

* Corresponding author: f_lamara@yahoo.com

ملخص:

إن الدراسات اللغوية الحديثة تؤكد أن مسابرة الרכب اللغوي الحديث تتطلب الضبط الدقيق للمصطلحات حتى يحسن توظيفها وتوظيفها سليما ترقى من خلاله عملية الترجمة ، وإشكالية ترجمة المصطلح المتخصص عموما والاقتصادي على وجه الخصوص من بين الإشكالات التي واجهت نقل المعرفة من اللغات الأجنبية إلى اللغة العربية. وعلى الرغم من جهود اتحاد المجامع العربية في توحيد المصطلحات؛ وجهود المترجمين واللغويين إلا أنّ المشكلة ما زالت قائمة، وأسباب ذلك ترجع لاختلاف مصدر المصطلح واضطرابه أثناء الترجمة، وتعدد المقابل في اللغة العربية للمصطلح من اللغات الأجنبية، وتعدد مشارب المترجمين.

الغرض من هذه الدراسة تحليل هذه الإشكالات لاقتراح الحلول لتوحيد المصطلح في الثقافة العربية ، مفندا دواعي توحيد المصطلح العربي، لأن المصطلحات مفاتيح العلوم فإذا تعددت المصطلحات لمفهوم واحد أدى هذا إلى اضطراب في الفهم وهذا ينعكس سلبا على استيعاب المعرفة ، ويساهم في تشويش عملية الترجمة برمتها.

الكلمات المفتاحية: مصطلح؛ مصطلح اقتصادي؛ لغة متخصصة؛ لغة اقتصادية؛ ترجمة متخصصة.

1. Introduction:

The issue of terminology is of great interest and is frequently talked about in specialized fields, as specialists resort to technical vocabulary and technical phrases that help them to economize in speech and achieve responsiveness and communication, linking them with the quality of specialization and aiming for a specific and accurate purpose. As long as the study of terminology or its development cannot be done outside the framework of the language it employs, this has been a strong motivation for the emergence of specialized languages. That is why it is important to address this issue as an important matter that requires us to consider translation that has become an urgent necessity in this era characterized by the spread of knowledge and information, the global village era, the dialogue of civilizations and the adoption of mutual economy between nations.

This openness to other civilizations and the scientific and technological development of most sciences has created, between books pages and the elite thinkers, the need for the emergence of a specialized language as an effective means of work and an indispensable tool and should be accompanied by a specialized translation that does not deviate from the general translation, in terms of the problems that impede its functioning.

With all branches and diversity of today sciences domains and the expansion of fields of interventions, it has become necessary to use specialized terminology to control and regulate it. It is not possible to talk about specialization field or a scientific branch unless it is

organized and understood in the sense that the key to every science is its terminology. Since languages vary in their structure, grammar, meanings and connotations, the translations of these terms raises a number of questions and inquiries and bring-up a huge number of issues that require analysis and interpretation and raise the following fundamental question:

On what basis does a translating person choose or properly develop economic terms correctly and optimally, in order to preserve their semantics and idiomatic meanings?

There are some goals that were behind our choice of this topic, some are subjective and others are objective. As for the subjective goal, it was based on a reality experienced by many students with a bachelor's degree in Economic Sciences, being more familiar with its terminology and the extent of the difficulties and obstacles facing the user and the student, not to mention the tiredness, difficulty, and dispersion in understanding and comprehending these terms.

As for the objective objectives, they can be summarized as follows:

- The scarcity of studies programmed in this type of research.
- Trying to shed light on the translation of economic terms and their impact on the money language, as the subject of the hour.
- Enriching the field of research with the translation of economic terms problematic, as an introduction to other topics.
- Knowing the problems of translating economic terms in order to reduce the terminological gap that hinders the course of specialized translation.

In order to answer the posed question, I considered dividing our research into two sub-researches, the first, entitled "Specialization language and economics language", in which we determined the language of specialization and determine its characteristics, given that the economic language is included in it. As for the second entitled "The Terminology and Specialized Translation", in it we identified a definition of both and deduced the translation of the economic term problematic.

2. Specialization language of and economics language:

2.1. Definition of the specialization language:

We begin by reviewing Pierre LAURA'S opinion as a specialist in specialized languages, he says:

« La notion de la langue spécialisée est plus pragmatique, c'est une langue naturelle considérée en tant que vecteur de connaissances spécialisées. »¹

English translation: « The notion of the specialized language is more pragmatic, it is a natural language considered as vector of specialized knowledge.»

Christine DURIEUX says in this regard:

« Il s'agit d'une langue servant à véhiculer des connaissances specializes.»²

English translation: « It is a language used to convey specialized knowledge.»

It is understood from this that the specialized language is the language that denotes a purely deliberative concept related to the field or specialization, and thus it performs a reporting function of specialized knowledge.

The most important characteristic that distinguishes the language of specialization is the amount of terminology it contains. As soon as it enters the field of specialization, it leaves the framework of the general language, and acquires its qualitative linguistic features both morphologically and compositionally.

The best way to come up with is the following definition:

« Chaque domaine de spécialité à au moins une langue de spécialité distincte du langage général et des autres langues de spécialité. L'aspect le plus apparent de ces différences est celui de la terminologie, sous la forme des termes spécialisés. »³

English translation: « Each specialty domain has at least one specialty language distinct from the general language and other specialty languages. The most apparent aspect of these differences is that of terminology, in the form of specialized terms».

As a summary of these definitions, we can say: the language of the specialized language is emanating from the general language, from which it derives its vocabulary which, once

¹ Pierre LERAT, Les langues spécialisées, coll, linguistique nouvelle, Ed, Presses Universitaires de France, Paris, 1995, p.20.

² Christine DURIEUX, pseudo synonymies en langue de spécialité, Cahiers du ciel, université de Caen, 1996, P.90.

³ GILE Daniel, La traduction, la comprendre, l'apprendre, Linguistique Nouvelle, Presse Universitaire de France, 2005, P.169.

employed in the specialized field, acquires a special character, As such, it is a tool for the transmission of special knowledge in a technical capacity.

The following is a brief presentation of the most important characteristics of the specialized language that comes from the general language.

2.2. Characteristics of the specialized language:

There is no doubt that specialized terminology is the main nucleus and nerve of all the specialized languages, but it cannot constitute a specialized language on its own, It was necessary to have distinctive characteristics that would be sufficient for the purpose.

2.2.1. Deliberative characteristics:

The specialized language depends on a method used by practitioners to communicate with each other, and serves as a bridge between specialists around the world. **Maria CABRE** refers to the specialist's ability to comprehend and understand the text related to his specialization in the language of the other and understanding it, hence facilitating communication between specialists with different languages.¹

2.2.2. Functional characteristics:

De BEAUGRAND believes that the primary function of the specialized languages is to communicate and convey the information.²

Regardless of the level of users, informing them is the goal that the specialists by means of specialized languages, in addition to the educational function, the purpose of teaching students the languages of specialization is to understand the texts and terminology related to their specialization, so they can contribute to a good understanding of knowledge.

2.2.3. Linguistic characteristics:

BELAID Salih says in this regard:

« A specialized language is that language in which a set of scientific specifications are available, from which we point out the most important ones: the tendency to accuracy, provides the availability of shorthand, clarity that eludes facts and helps to understand, simplicity and distance from the complexity that delivers from confusion».³

¹ CABRÉ M.T., La terminologie: Théorie, méthode et applications, Ottawa/Armand Colin, Paris, 1998, p.132.

² Cabré M.T, idem, p.123.

³ BELAID Saleh, Scientific Arabic, Algeria, Dar Homa, 2003, p. 47.

These characteristics are represented in the linguistic aspects that affect specialized texts, from their own technical and scientific style to simplicity and clarity, like writing the content in an accurate and clear manner that is far from complexity preferring for well-known terms and avoiding ambiguous expressions.

It is also a language characterized by brevity and not stuffiness, in order to communicate the content of knowledge with the minimum possible of brief terms, rejecting verbal meaning associations and synonyms based on single semantics.

We conclude that these characteristics make the specialized languages to have the advantage of uniqueness over the general languages.

2.3. The economic language:

Each science has its own language that distinguishes it in terms of terminology, methods and structures. Since economics is a branch of the social sciences, and its language is common to many of those and other sciences, The Economist speaks the social language, deals with statistics, analyzes the language of pure economists and interprets phenomena in the language of philosophers and theorists, this was the impetus for the emergence of a specialized language mastered by scientists and researchers of economics more than others, which they use it in their writings, research and articles, which is the economic language.

In this regard says **Frédéric HOUBERT**:

« La langue économique est en même temps une langue « vivante », dotée d'une personnalité à part entière, et une langue très technique.»¹

English translation: « The economic language is in the same time a "living" language, endowed with a personality in full measure, and a very technical language.»²

And he also says :

« La langue économique et financière, parce qu'elle rend compte d'une réalité en constante évolution, est par ailleurs génératrice de nombreux néologismes : on entend ainsi parler depuis quelque temps déjà de la nouvelle économie, de la net économie.»³

¹ Frédéric HOUBERT, Problématique de la traduction économique et financière, translation journal, vol.5, n.2., avril 2001,

<https://translationjournal.net/journal/16finance.htm>(01/09/2020, 19:00h)

² Frédéric HOUBERT, idem.

³ Frédéric HOUBERT, idem.

English translation: «The economic and financial language, as it reflects a constantly changing reality, is also generating many neologisms: we have heard for some time now about the new economy, the net economy»¹

Each specialized field has its own terminology that expresses its content and particularly to the specialists, based on this, when an economist talks, for example, about the theory of the quantity of money, he will not resort to the artistic form and aesthetic aspects, but rather uses an expression that describes the existence of a mathematical relationship, any change that occurs in the quantity of money offered is reflected in the same amount and in the same direction on the general price level.

It may be that what hinders the common man is the difficulty of communicating with the economist, because economic language is stereotyped and often expresses a mathematical model or an economic theory that is exclusively recognized by economists.

Some of the most important economic languages in our contemporary world are: the language of economics, the language of numbers, the language of statistics, the language of economic studies, the language of economic reports, economic language of money, economic language of privatization, economic language of poverty, etc.

From the above, we come to the conclusion that economic language is, on the one hand, a specialized language with specialized and precise terminology capable of understanding concepts and useful for communicating between economists, and on the other hand it is a living language that generates many terms, as a result of the explosion of knowledge and the increasing development of economic sciences.

With the tremendous and rapid development that the world knows in the fields of science and the abundance, diversity and complexity of disciplines, there is a need to understand and control emerging terms. From this standpoint, we thought we should give a general overview of the term in general, and particularly of specialized one.

3. Terminology and economic translation:

3.1. Terminology definition:

Scholars and researchers paid great attention to terminology, especially with the diversity of sciences and the multiplicity of disciplines, and with this situation several definitions of the term emerged:

¹ Frédéric HOUBERT, idem.

Mustafa AL-SHEHABI defined it by saying:

"It's a term that scholars have agreed to adopt to express the meaning of scientific concepts"¹

Ali ben Muhammad AL-JARJANI, in the definitions book, defines the term as: "It is a people's agreement to name a thing after moving it from its first topic to a meaning between them or to a similarity in a description or otherwise".²

And for **Mohammed HELMY HELLIL**, "An agreed word for specialized scientists in a particular field of knowledge and specialization, to demonstrate a scientific concept"³

As for **Mahmoud FAHMY HIJAZI**, believes that most of the specialists in the science of the terminology, agree that the best definition of the term is as follows: "the terminology word or expression is a single concept or a structured term whose meaning or rather its use has settled to a clear definition, it is a special expression narrowed in its specialized significance, and to the highest degree of clarity, and has its equivalent in other languages and is always presented in the context of the system of specific branch of terminology so as to achieve its necessary clarity".⁴

The term is the name on which scholars agreed on to signify something specific to them, and therefore the terminology varies according to the fields of knowledge, so that each field has its own terminology, but also to each part of the field has its own terminology, and also the economic sciences has its own terminology.

In the light of the above definitions and terminology concepts, the opinion of specialists of the terminology studies, agrees that each term has its equivalent in other languages, which confirms the existence of a strong link between the terminology sciences and the translation in addition to their affiliation to the field of applied linguistics.

3.2. Specialized translation:

¹ Mohammed TABI, View of the Arabic Language Voluntarily, Al-Qayl Magazine, Statistical Analytical Laboratory in The Humanities, Abu Bakr Belkaid University, Tlemcen, Issue 1, March 2002, p. 111.

² HIJAZI MAHMOUD Fahmy, Linguistic Foundations of Terminology, Dar Ghraib, Lebanon, i1, 1994, p.10.

³ Mohammed HELMY HILLEL, the voice term between localization and translation, Arabic language magazine, coordination office arabization, Rabat, Issue 21, 1983, p. 112.

⁴ HIJAZI MAHMOUD Fahmy, idem, p.12.

It is well known that specialized languages constitute the base of knowledge, so that the translator is now facing a linguistic revolution in scientific and technical disciplines, which requires knowledge of the languages of specialization, their features and their levels, because the translator with the general culture is often mistaken because of his lack of knowledge of the specialty and a lack of accurate understanding of the subject. So specialization is required for every translator who is interested in specialized translation. Mastering one or more specialized languages has become critical and essential for the success of specialized translation.¹

We have to pay attention to specialized translation into Arabic by:

- Giving the interest to the formation of specialized translators and supervising them with professors from translation and scientific institutes, or the integration of translation material in the departments of scientific institutes.
- Programming online specialized lessons via the internet.
- Organizing training courses in translation and terminology for professors of scientific subjects.²

Specialized translation began as a scientific and technical translation, and then shifted to be the translation of specialized languages and texts, before becoming functional and practically applicable.³ And the specialized translation (*traduction spécialisée*) in translation studies and research papers has different appellations: Technical translation (*traduction technique*), or Professional translation (*traduction professionnelle*), or Pragmatic translation (*traduction pragmatique*).

Christine DURIEUX, the specialist in translation science, says about it:

"Ce qu'il est convenu d'appeler *traduction spécialisée* est en fait la traduction de textes spécialisés. Sur le plan linguistique, un texte spécialisé présente la particularité d'être rédigé

¹ HIJAZI MAHMOUD Fahmy, *idem*, p. 2.

² Mohammed AL-DIDAWI, *translator's curriculum between writing, convention, hobby and professionalism*, Arab Cultural Center, i1, 2005, p. 134.

³ RACHIDI Hassan, *Specialized Text Translation Strategies*, Translator Magazine, Mohamed Lamine Dabagen Setif2 University, Algeria, Issue 15, July 2015, p.221.

dans une langue spécialisée, mais surtout un texte spécialisé est un vecteur de connaissances spécialisées".¹

English translation: " What it was necessary to call specialized translation is in fact the translation of specialized texts. On linguistic plan, a specialized text has the feature to be written in a specialized language, but especially a specialized text is a vector of specialized knowledge".

Thus, we can say that the specialized translation is based mainly on the specialization of the language, which requires language mastering levels according to its daily use, and each of it is characterized by a terminology and a style that separates it from others, it is not a failure that a translator is not specialized in his field of work, but what is worse is that he stands bewildered by the many texts that are presented to him at the translation table, without moving and looking for the most appropriate way to do his work.

4. Problematic translation of the economic terminology:

The problem of translating the term is one of the serious problems that the translator faces, because it includes cultural tendencies that stand in the background of the original text and surround it like a nice transparent aura that is sometimes not seen. The translator then has to translate not only the different elements of the semiological framework, but also translate the place of this element in the whole society, therefore the economic and social structure of society affects all the elements that make up its structure.²

Thus, the one who deals with the translation of specialized and economic terms in particular must have a scientific and cultural background, in order to be prepared for this hard work, his work shall be a scientifically recognized document, from that specific knowledge to form the terminological concept in its origin, keeping the ability to know the contextual, cognitive and scientific circumstances in which the original term emerged. Therefore, "the isolated translation of the term from its field of use, its area of competence,

¹ Christine DURIEUX, transparence et fonctionnalité, Université de Caen " Synergies Tunisie, n° 2, 2010, p.31

² Mohammed AL-DIADAWI, idem, p.p. 105.106.

and tracking of its communication path, makes its translation turbulent and unclear translation".¹

In addition to the above, the economic translator often faces problems and difficulties during the process of translating economic terms, due to the specialized competence they require, and realizing of the requirements of these texts, researching and scrutinizing all the selected terms and being aware of all involved constraints.

Among the problems that have weighed heavily on the international scene is the problem of using Arabic economic terms in the light of globalization, the problem of choosing the appropriate terms or creating new terms has raised attention of many researchers, and from those who go further **LAKHDAR AZZI**, who emphasises the need to setup a proper Arabic terminology instead of Arabizing them, even if it was widespread, and not hesitating to correct some terms that do not correspond to the foreign term like: "money exchange facility" (masref) preferred than "bank", and the term "oil" (naft) preferred than "petrol" or the term of "state notarial and conservative offices" (diwaniyah) on (bureaucratiya) bureaucracy, etc.

If added to this problem is a major problem no less important than the previous one, which is the problem of unifying the economic terminology and the multiplicity of the connotations of the single term. In this context, it is worth mentioning the efforts being made by the Bureau for the Coordination of Arabization in Rabat, which aims to collect all the terms used in the Arab world, and present them to the Conference of Arab Experts for selection and standardization.²

On the other hand, the economic translator does not hesitate to round up the terms that have no equivalent in the Arabic language, based on what modern linguists and translators agreed on to confine a single meaning in to a single term in order to eliminate confusion in terminology, especially those which abound in Arab economic dictionaries, that use the same term to denote several meanings.

² FATIH MOHAMMED Suleiman, Problematic Translation of the Term (Theoretical Study), Dialogue Magazine, Thursday, January 9, 2020

http://alhiwarmagazine.blogspot.com/2020/01/blog-post_42.html (12/10/2020, 22:27SA)

² Abderrahmane HAJ SALEH, Research and Studies in Arabic Linguistics, Part 1, Publications of the Algerian Society of Arabic, 2007, p. 382.

For example, we find that the terms, amortization, consumption, and depreciation have the same concept, knowing that amortization, is approximatively synonymous with depreciation, and this term applies to the recorded decrease in the value of fixed assets, i.e. investments. Concerning the term consumption is applied to perishable assets and the most prominent expression of it is stocks, so everything that is amortized is considered investment and everything that is consumed is considered stock, meaning that there is a great discrepancy in the deep meanings of the previous two terms; here the economic translator finds difficulties to add the aesthetic aspect of the term, so it loses its meaning.

You may encounter several terms corresponding to the same meaning, such as the terms share, bond and check, although there are differences between them. This is what led the contemporary linguist, Father Anastas Marie, Karmali, to say: "If we see some deficiencies in the Arabic dictionaries, the deficit is greater in the Frankish-Arab and Arab-Frankish collections, so if you click on a foreign word to know its counter-part in Arabic, the author will mention to you several words that may have been close in meaning but may also be conflicting, so you become confused about choosing the required word, and for this reason often the foreign language dictionaries for the linguistic student represent a blocking barrier for him to progress".¹

the problem of translating the economic terminology is one of the serious problems currently facing the economic translator, which has led to the emergence of individual efforts in developing the term, in order to get rid of the terminological chaos.

5. Conclusion:

We conclude from all the above, that translation is not an easy-to-achieve job, especially in its economic part, this is due to the specificity of the text that it deals with, which includes knowledge, experiences, cultures, diverse complex ideas and visions which provoke problems that hinder the translator's economic progress and prevent him from reaching an optimal translation.

1. LAKHDAR AZZI, An Analytical Study of the Difficulties of Applied Translation of University Economic Books in Algeria, Faculty of Arts, Languages and Arts, Department of Translation, Oran University, May 10-11, 2004, <https://www.diwanalarab.com/1436> (23/10/2020, 23.00SA)

The problem of translating economic terminology is not an up to date one, but rather a problem that is always present and continuing for eternity, unless the concerned institutions rapidly intervene to find road-maps for effective solutions, in the context of globalization culture and the new updated concepts, terminology and repercussions, across all speaking Arabic countries in leaps and bounds.

In order to make our study more scientific, we supported it with a set of suggestions and recommendations that are summarized in the following:

- The necessity to standardize the economic terminology indicating a single scientific concept, as well as the efforts and initiatives of linguistic institutions and corps in the Arab world, in establishing rules and controls for the selection of the most common terminology, the easiest in use that refers to the concept.
- Ensure that the work of the translator is reviewed by a specialist for linguistic precision and standardize the recognized terminology. There must be close cooperation between the linguist and the specialist, with the first focusing on the specialization subject and the second on the language concerns, preserving the term originality splendor.
- Arab countries have to come into contact with everything related to the economic language and its new terminology in line with the globalization and digitization era. They must also be aware of all updates and keep up with the latest developments, to be up with what new to the newest.

Our intention from this work is to draw attention to the matter of economic translation and to contribute to a tangible extent, expanding the circle of sensibility concerning translation and terminology problems and implanting their involved culture. And we hope that this issue will be raised in a responsible manner and addressed objectively.

6. Bibliography List :

Books:

1. BELAID Saleh, Scientific Arabic, Algeria, Dar Homa, 2003.
2. HIJAZI MAHMOUD Fahmy, Linguistic Foundations of Terminology, Dar Ghraib, Lebanon, i1, 1994.
3. Mohammed AL-DIDAWI, translator's curriculum between writing, convention, hobby and professionalism, Arab Cultural Center, i1, 2005.
4. CABRÉ M.T., La terminologie: Théorie, méthode et applications, Ottawa/Armand Colin, Paris, 1998.

5. Christine DURIEUX, pseudo synonymies en langue de spécialité, Cahiers du ciel, université de Caen, 1996.
6. GILE Daniel, La traduction, la comprendre, l'apprendre, Linguistique Nouvelle, Presse Universitaire de France, 2005.
7. Pierre LERAT, Les langues spécialisées, coll, linguistique nouvelle, Ed, Presses Universitaires de France, Paris, 1995.

Review:

1. RACHIDI Hassan, Specialized Text Translation Strategies, Translator Magazine, Mohamed Lamine Dabagen Setif2 University, Algeria, Issue 15, July 2015.
2. FATIH MOHAMMED Suleiman, Problematic Translation of the Term (Theoretical Study), Dialogue Magazine, Thursday, January 9, 2020
http://alhiwarmacazine.blogspot.com/2020/01/blog-post_42.html (12/10/2020, 22:27SA)
3. Abderrahmane HAJ SALEH, Research and Studies in Arabic Linguistics, Part 1, Publications of the Algerian Society of Arabic, 2007.
4. Mohammed HELMY HILLEL, the voice term between localization and translation, Arabic language magazine, coordination office arabization, Rabat, Issue 21, 1983.
5. Mohammed TABI, View of the Arabic Language Voluntarily, Al-Qayl Magazine, Statistical Analytical Laboratory in The Humanities, Abu Bakr Belkaid University, Tlemcen, Issue 1, March 2002.
6. Christine DURIEUX, transparence et fonctionnalité, Université de Caen " Synergies Tunisie, n° 2, 2010.
7. Frédéric HOUBERT, Problématique de la traduction économique et financière, translation journal, vol.5, n.2., avril 2001,
<https://translationjournal.net/journal/16finance.htm>(01/09/2020, 19:00h)

Interventions:

1. LAKHDAR AZZI, An Analytical Study of the Difficulties of Applied Translation of University Economic Books in Algeria, Faculty of Arts, Languages and Arts, Department of Translation, Oran University, May 10-11, 2004, <https://www.diwanalarab.com/1436> (23/10/2020, 23.00SA)